

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-9 and 16-23 are pending in the application, with 1, 6, 16, 18 and 20 being the independent claims. Claims 10-15 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 17-23 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification for a minor informality in paragraph 46, which has been corrected above. The Examiner also objected to the specification as not providing antecedent basis for the term "head portion" in the claims. Although the term "head portion" is clear in light of the specification and drawings, Applicants have amended the claims to recite "first portion". Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objections be withdrawn.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings for a minor error in Figure 2. A corrected version of the drawing is included with this reply. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. However, the rejection was incomplete, as it reads "In claim 5, it is not seen how a material can be both a". Paragraphs 48 and 49 in the specification support claim 5 and give examples of the types of materials that can be used.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,771,164 to Gellert ("Gellert '164 patent"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent claim 1 of the application recites, among other things, that the electric heater and the at least one temperature sensor are "embedded within" the nozzle body. The Gellert '164 patent does not disclose this feature of independent claim 1. Instead, the Gellert '164 patent discloses a temperature sensor that is "mounted to extend through the air space" rather than embedded within the nozzle body. Gellert '164 patent, col. 4, lines 31-32. Furthermore, the Gellert '164 patent discloses an electrical heating element cast in a copper spiral channel surrounding the nozzle, and therefore is not embedded within. *See* Gellert '164 patent, col. 4, lines 5-8.

Independent claim 6 of the application recites, among other things, that the "thermocouple wire element is longitudinally adjacent to said heater wire element" as they wind spirally along the length of the nozzle body. The Gellert '164 patent does not disclose this feature of independent claim 6. Instead, the Gellert '164 patent discloses that

the thermocouple wire element and heater wire element follow separate paths along the nozzle. *See* Gellert '164 patent, Figure 1.

Independent claim 16 of the application recites, among other things, that the thermocouple wire element and heater wire element, are "longitudinally adjacent" to one another, separated only by a dielectric material. The Gellert '164 patent does not disclose this feature of independent claim 16. Instead, the Gellert '164 patent discloses that the thermocouple wire element and heater wire element are separated by steel and air as well as a dielectric material. *See* Gellert '164 patent, col. 4, lines 10-13.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 6 and 16 are not anticipated by and are patentable over the Gellert '164 patent. Claims 2-5 depend from and add further features to independent claim 1, claims 7-9 depend from and add further features to independent claim 6 and new claim 17 depends from and adds further features to independent claim 16. As such claims 2-5, 7-9 and 17 are patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with reference to the independent claims. New independent claim 18 recites that the electrical heater and the at least one temperature sensor are equidistant from a centerline of the melt channel, a feature not disclosed in the Gellert '164 patent. New claim 19 depends on new independent claim 18. New independent claim 20 recites that the at least one thermocouple wire element winds around the nozzle body a plurality of times, a feature not disclosed in the Gellert '164 patent. New claims 21, 22 and 23 depend on independent claim 20. Applicants have previously paid for 5 independent claims, and therefore no fee is required.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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